

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SS-15 L-02 H-01 NSC-05 AID-05

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, EEC, IR

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 10: DIS-
CUSSIONS OF EC TRADE RELATIONS WITH IRAN

REF: EC BRUSSELS 897

1. AT THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON
FEBRUARY 10 THE MINISTERS HELD A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON RELATIONS WITH
IRAN. THEY NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN NEARLY A YEAR SINCE THE COMMI-
SION HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH THE GOI AND DECIDED
THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO GET A MORE COMPLETE READING OF
IRANIAN DESIRES.

2. COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL EDMUND WELLENSTEI, SPEAKING TO
A MISSION OFFICER, SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF A TRIP TO IRAN
WOULD BE REQUIRED BUT THAT THIS COULD NOT BE RULED OUT. HE NOTED
THAT THE COMMISSION HAD BEEN RECEIVING "SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTIONARY"
REPORTS ON IRAN'S DESIRES AND THAT IT WAS QUITE LOGICAL THAT THE
COMMISSION SEEK TO REOPEN A DIRECT DIALOGUE.

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3. PETER SHORE, UK MINISTER FOR TRADE, REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL
ON HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN IRAN. ACCORDING TO HIS PRESS SPOKES-

MAN, HE INDICATED HE WAS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT IRAN WAS INSISTENT ON A PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT THEY REPEATEDLY USED THE PHRASE "A MORE MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP," BUT THIS WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DEFINED.

4. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND COREPER REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S PREVIOUS INSTRUCTION TO COREPER TO HAVE THE COMMISSION PREPARE A NEW PAPER ON EC RELATIONS WITH IRAN (REFTEL). OUR PERMREP CONTACTS WERE MISTAKEN IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COMMISSION WAS TO PREPARE ANOTHER OPTIONS PAPER. THUS, WHILE PERHAPS OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, THE COMMISSION PAPER OF JANUARY 21 (TRANSMITTED TO EUR/RPE) REPRESENTS ITS LATEST RECORDED THINKING ON THE SUBJECT. GREENWALD

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